

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Brief Listing of Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 20 are Amended.

Claims 2-19 and 21 are Previously Presented.

Listing of Claims in “Marked-up” Form

1. (Amended) A wood cooking aid comprising a blended mixture of fatty acid component and a rosin acid component and/or salts thereof ~~wherein said fatty acid component is blended together with said rosin acid component to produce said cooking aid~~, and wherein said cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, and about 20 to about 98% rosin acids.
2. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said salts are soaps of said acids and wherein said cooking aid contains less than about 15% unsaponifiable material.
3. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said cooking aid comprises about 35 to about 80% rosin acids and about 55 to about 15% fatty acids.
4. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said rosin acids comprise tall oil rosin acids selected from the group consisting of abietic acid, dehydroabietic acid, palustric acid, and all combinations thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said rosin acids comprise pimamic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids are selected from the group consisting of vegetable based fatty acids, animal based fatty acids, and all combinations thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise unsaturated fatty acids.
8. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise oleic acid, linoleic acid and/or pinolenic acid.
9. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise branched fatty acids, conjugated fatty acids, synthetic fatty acids and/or cyclic fatty acids.
10. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise the monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids.
11. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said monomer part contains branched oleic acids 13 to 20%, branched stearic acids 7 to 20%, oleic acid 15 to 25%, other fatty acids 28 to 58% the rest being unsaponifiable material.
12. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21%, other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.
13. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from tall oil.

14. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids comprise fractions of distilled tall oil.
15. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise 5,11,14-C20:3 and 11,14-C20:2.
16. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking aid of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from distilled tall oil and/or tall oil rosin and/or tall oil fatty acids.
17. (Previously Presented) A method for making the wood cooking aid of claim 1 comprising the steps of:
- i) blending a fatty acid component with a rosin acid component to produce a fatty acid rosin acid mixture;
 - ii) reacting said fatty acid rosin acid mixture with water and sodium hydroxide to form salts of said acids.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said reacting is performed in a pressure reactor at a temperature about 100°C.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said reacting is performed in a continuous reactor.
20. (Amended) A method for cooking hardwood comprising the steps of:
- i) contacting hardwood particles with a cooking liquor comprising a cooking aid, and
 - ii) heating said particles and liquor to a temperature between 140°C and 180°C
- wherein said cooking aid comprises a blended mixture of about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, and about 20 to about 98% rosin acids and less than 15% unsaponifiable material.